

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The subject matter of the independent claims could either not be found or was not suggested in the prior art of record. The subject matter not found for claims 1, 13, 17, 22 is a needle that is attached to a catheter or syringe and has a distal opening that is formed between a first surface indented towards a second surface and wherein the first surface has a curved portion on the outer surface of the first surface (the concavity portion) that helps to allow the first surface to block a majority of the distal opening (see figure 1).

The subject matter not found for claim 34 is a needle that is attached to a catheter or syringe and has a distal opening that is formed between a first surface indented towards a second surface and wherein the first surface has a curved portion on the outer surface of the first surface (the concavity portion) that helps to allow the first surface to block the opening and form a U-shape opening when viewing the needle from the front distal end (see figure 2).

The subject matter not found for claims 47 is a needle that is attached to a catheter or syringe and has a distal opening that is formed between a first surface indented towards a second surface and wherein the first surface has a curved portion on the outer surface of the first surface (the concavity portion) that helps to allow the first surface to block the distal opening. The distal opening is closed at the distal tip and thus forms a closed U-shape when viewing the needle from the front distal end (see figure 8).

The independent claims also include other patentable subject matter in combination with the other elements or steps of the claim not mention in the above paragraph.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW F. DESANTO whose telephone number is (571)272-4957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick LUCCHESI can be reached on (571) 272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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